



# Education Watch

Enhancing Flexibility & Accountability ■ Leaving No Child Behind

U.S. House Education & the Workforce Committee ■ John Boehner, Chairman  
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<http://edworkforce.house.gov/edwatch>

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## Committee Readies *No Child Left Behind* for Introduction

The House Education & the Workforce Committee is preparing to introduce the President's *No Child Left Behind* reform plan before the Easter recess. The bill, to be introduced as H.R. 1, will reflect the president's key priorities of flexibility, accountability, and choice to help close the achievement gap between disadvantaged students and their peers.

The academic achievement gap between rich and poor, Anglo and minority remains wide, and in some cases is growing wider. Robert Kennedy once called the achievement gap between disadvantaged students and their peers "a stain on our national honor." We cannot let this tragedy continue unchecked.

The *No Child Left Behind* plan refocuses federal education spending back toward its original goal of helping America's disadvantaged students. It establishes a system of rewards and sanctions for states and school districts to hold them accountable for increasing student achievement.

The president's message is clear: We must encourage states and school districts to implement innovative solutions to educate our children, but we must also hold them accountable for improving student achievement.

### Message of the Day

***No Child Left Behind* gives students a chance, parents a choice, and schools a charge to be the best in the world.**

- ❑ *Giving states and local schools more flexibility will improve student performance.*
- ❑ *But we can't have real accountability without real consequences for chronic failure.*
- ❑ *The President's plan gives parents the option of removing their children from failing schools and sending them to a different public school or a private school after three years of certified failure.*

### DAILY EDUCATION FACTS

- Since 1990, Congress has spent more than \$80 billion on the Title I program, but achievement scores remain generally stagnant.
- Today, nearly 70 percent of inner city fourth-graders cannot read at a basic level.
- The Bush proposal establishes a rigorous accountability system, including asking states to design and implement annual math and reading tests for students in grades three through eight.

### QUOTE OF THE DAY

*"It is better for a student to be corrected by a parent, a teacher, or a test and then be given a chance to improve, than to be corrected by an often unforgiving, out-of-school world. The whole point of standards is to help children make their way in the world."* **William J. Bennett, San Jose Mercury-News, February 28, 2001**